

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 00613 271014Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6220
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 0613

DEPT PLS PASS TO HARTMAN

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TU, US, CY
SUBJECT: NEW CYPRUS SOLUTION INITIATIVE

1. FORMER PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT TALKED WITH ME EVENING JAN. 27
ABOUT HIS PUZZLEMENT OVER VARIOUS NEWS STORIES CONCERNING
A POSSIBLE INITIATIVE BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WITH
RESPECT TO THE CYPRUS SITUATION, AN INITIATIVE WHICH,
ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, WOULD TAKE THE FORM OF A
MISSION OR SPECIAL EMISSARY SENT BY PRESIDENT CARTER TO
THE AREA CAPITALS INVOLVED. ECEVIT GATHERED FROM WHAT
VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT ANNOUNCEMENT
OF THIS MISSION WAS IMMINENT. HE ASKED WHAT I KNEW ABOUT IT
AND WHAT HAD BEEN SAID TO THE GOT ABOUT IT.

2. I SAID THAT I EXPECTED THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION
WOULD BE MAKING AN EARLY INITIATIVE DESIGNED TO
MAKE PROGRESS IN THREE KEY AREAS:
US/TURKISH RELATIONS, US/GREEK RELATIONS, AND
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 00613 271014Z

THE CYPRUS SITUATION. I WAS NOT AWARE
OF THE PRECISE FORM THAT THESE EFFORTS WOULD TAKE,
BUT I WAS HOPEFUL THAT THIS WOULD BECOME CLEAR IN
THE FAIRLY NEAR FUTURE.

3. RESPECTING THE CYPRUS SITUATION, ECEVIT ASKED
WHETHER I REALLY THOUGHT THAT THE PRESENT TURKISH

GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ABLE TO COOPERATE IN ANY EFFORT TO MOVE TOWARDS A SOLUTION THERE. I RESPONDED, AND ONLY PARTLY FACETIOUSLY, THAT THIS DEPENDED SOMEWHAT ON HIM AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE OPPOSITION. ECEVIT IMMEDIATELY REPLIED IN THE SAME VEIN HE HAS IN THE PAST WHEN I HAVE RAISED THIS WITH HIM. "WE WILL NOT BE A PROBLEM FOR THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT ON THIS SUBJECT", HE SAID, "I HAVE ALWAYS TOLD YOU THAT". ECEVIT THEN ADDED, "WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE BEING VERY TOUGH WITH THEM ON THE AEGEAN SITUATION, BUT ERBAKAN, NOT WE IN THE OPPOSITION, IS GOING TO BE DEMIREL'S PRINCIPAL PROBLEM IN CONNECTION WITH ANY EFFORT TO MOVE TOWARDS A CYPRUS SOLUTION".

4. ECEVIT NEXT ASKED WHETHER I PERSONALLY THOUGHT THERE WAS ANY CHANCE THAT DEMIREL COULD SUCCESSFULLY HANDLE ERBAKAN IN CONNECTION WITH A NEW EFFORT TO GET MOTION TOWARDS A CYPRUS SOLUTION. I SAID THAT IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE DIFFICULT, BUT I THOUGHT THERE WAS ENOUGH OF A POSSIBILITY TO MAKE IT WORTH TRYING. ECEVIT SAID HE HOPED I WAS RIGHT BUT HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE DOESN'T THINK SO.

5. COMMENT: THE FOREIGN PRESS SPECULATION BEING REPRINTED IN TURKEY CONCERNING NEW US INITIATIVE IN THE CYPRUS SITUATION GIVES THE IMPRESSION HERE OF BEING FAIRLY ROUNDLY SOURCED. BECAUSE OF THIS AND BECAUSE THE TURKS ARE LIKELY TO LEARN THAT WE HAVE TALKED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ANKARA 00613 271014Z

OTHERS CONCERNING INITIATIVES THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IS CONSIDERING, I BELIEVE WE HAVE REACHED THE POINT WHERE SOMETHING SHOULD BE SAID TO THE GOT ON THIS SUBJECT. IF PLANS HAVE NOT JELLED SUFFICIENTLY TO MAKE THIS APPROACH IN A DEFINITIVE WAY, I STILL THINK IT WOULD BE POLITIC TO CONVEY TO GOT AUTHORITIES THE FACT THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING CERTAIN INITIATIVES AND WE HOPE TO BE IN FURTHER TOUCH ABOUT THIS SOON.

6. IN SIGNALING THIS NEW INITIATIVE, I SUGGEST THAT AMBASSADOR ESENBEL AND I BOTH BE USED AS CHANNELS. COMMUNICATION THROUGH ME TENDS TO REACH THE FOREIGN OFFICE MORE RAPIDLY, BUT I THINK IT IS USEFUL AND IMPORTANT TO KEEP AMBASSADOR ESENBEL IN THE ACT AS WELL.

7. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE FROM REPORTS OF PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS I HAVE HAD WITH ECEVIT ON SUBJECT OF

CYPRUS SOLUTION, HE WILL BE NO MEANS BE AS NEGLIGABLE
A FACTOR IN DEMIREL'S THINKING AS THE ABOVE CONVERSATION
MIGHT SUGGEST. IT NOTQUITE TRUE, HOWEVER, THAT DEMIREL'S
INITIALDIFFICULTIES IRE LIKELY TO BE FAR GREATER WITH
HIS COALITION PARTNER, ERBAKAN, THAN WITH THE ECEVIT
OPPOSITION PARTY. BUT ECEVIT HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT
HE WILL ONLY SUPPORT A "REASONABLE" CYPRUS SOLUTION,
AND HE HAS LEFT HIS OPTIONS WIDE OPEN WITH RESPECT TO
WHAT HE WILL OR WILL NOT CONSIDER REASONABLE. IN FACT
SOME TIME AGO HE MOVED TO MAKE THESE OPTIONS WIDER
THAN THEY HAD EARLIER BEEN. HE DID THIS
BY DECLARING
THAT THE WOULD NO LONGER NECESSARILY SUPPORT EVEN THE
LIMITED CONCESSION HE HAD BEEN PREPARED TO AGREE TO
WHEN HE WAS STILL PRIMIN "BECAUSE CONDITIONS
HAVE CHANGED". IN ANY EVENT, THE REAL CLUB HE CONTINUES
TO HAVE OVER DEMIREL'S HEAD IS THE "I TOOK CYPRUS AND
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PAGE 04 ANKARA 00613 271014Z

DEMIREL IS PREPARED TO GIVE IT AWAY" ARGUMENT. DEMIREL
IS WELL AWARE THAT THIS COULD BE A POLITICALLY DEVAS-
TATING BURDEN TO CARRY IN THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION
CAMPAIGN.
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Message Attributes

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